



Commander's Corner

November 11, is the anniversary of the Armistice which was signed in the Forest of Compiegne by the Allies and the Germans in 1918, ending World War I, after four years of conflict.



At 5 A.M. on Monday, November 11, 1918 the Germans signed the Armistice, an order was issued for all firing to cease; so the hostilities of the First World War ended. This day began with the laying down of arms, blowing of whistles, impromptu parades, closing of places of business. All over the globe there were many demonstrations; no doubt the world has never before witnessed such rejoicing.

In November of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day proclamation. The last paragraph set the tone for future observances:

To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.

Today the Warriors of the 29th Brigade Combat Team have answered the call to duty as many Americans in our proud history. We now are carrying the torch of freedom for the weak, the oppressed and poor in Iraq. Like the many soldiers who swept aside tyranny in World War I, you have swept aside terrorism and have made Iraq safer and more secure place for its people. And in doing so have made America and the rest of the world a safer place to live.

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CSM's Message

Let me begin by extending my belated condolences to the family and friends of SGT Alfredo Silva, SGT Michael Sonoda, SGT Paul Neubauer, SSG Daniel Schiele, SSG Jerry Bonifacio, SGT Evan Parker, CPT Michael MacKinnon, COL William Wood, SPC Shakere Guy, CPT Raymond Hill, CPL Derence Jack and SSG Wilgene Lieto. My hopes and wishes to our wounded for a speedy recovery.



We are now in our 90 Day window, and while the missions still have to go on, the HQ and unit staffs are busily trying to work the redeployment piece. Our Home States, Rear Detachments, FRGs, and CONUS Commands are also working out the demobilization issues to ensure our demobe is accomplished as smooth and seamless as possible as we prepare our Soldiers to go back to their families and civilian life.

It's important that your families attend the Family Reunion briefings back home and start preparing for the change in lifestyle that REFRAD will bring. To many Soldiers and their families, their income will drop. You must prepare for this reality. There is a health care plan called Tricare Reserve Select that will be available at cost. We are still trying to work out the hurdles to get our Soldiers to complete their NCOES as soon possible. Each state will handle it differently, but Soldiers have to be committed to attending and completing their NCOES in order to retain their ranks. Many of you will go back a changed person. Many young Soldiers quickly became mature adults. Even your family will have changed since they have had to get by without you all this time. Either way, it's important that you,

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Aloha!

I would like to once again thank you for your tremendous sacrifice and service to our country.

Many of Hawai'i's deployed soldiers and their family members have written or spoken to me about their concerns regarding the 18 months of deployment. Army National Guard units that have been deployed to Iraq, Kuwait or Afghanistan spend more time away from their loved ones than any other branch of service. Because of this, I know you have missed many holidays, birthdays and anniversaries and the little but important moments of your families' daily lives. Being away from your friends and families for such a long time is one of the most difficult things that will ever be asked of you. I can only imagine how hard it is on you and your loved ones.



Photo provided by the Governor's Office

The people of Hawai'i truly appreciate your sacrifice. Despite the hardship, please know that you are making a difference in the world, and that you are part of something very important to our nation. Your service brings great pride to your families as well as our state.

The State Adjutant General, Major General Robert Lee is working with the Adjutants General Association of the United States to address the possibility of reducing the lengthy deployment of Army National Guard units. He will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in mid-November to meet with General Blum, Chief of the National Guard, and again in December for the National Guard mid-winter conference.

I want you to know, you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers as we eagerly look forward to your safe return early next year. I encourage you to send me photographs which I would be proud to feature in my weekly e-newsletter and website so your family, friends and the people of Hawai'i can see how you are doing.

I also hope you will share your thoughts with me via e-mail at Governor.Lingle@hawaii.gov. You can also sign up for my weekly electronic newsletter to keep you posted on events back home at www.hawaii.gov/gov.

Please be safe, stay strong and help each other out as you continue to serve.

Mahalo,

Governor Linda Lingle

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Soldiers gather to share grief, remember joy Soldier brought

Spc. Dan Balda
4th BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division came together Oct. 13 at Forward Operating Base Prosperity to honor the memory of Sgt. Jerry Lee Bonifacio Jr. The mortar man assigned to B Company 1st Battalion, 184 Infantry Regiment but working in support of 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment was killed in an attack by a car bomb.

Lt. Col. William Wood, 1-184 battalion commander did not have the pleasure of knowing Bonifacio but was impressed and humbled by his sacrifice.

“He was a Soldier, a patriot, a man who answered his nations call,” Wood said. “He could have stayed home safe in the United States and allow others to go in his place. Because he answered the call he became a national treasure, a hero and a man we owe a great debt to.”

Wood quoted John Stuart Mill, a 19th century philosopher: “The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertion of better men.”

“Sgt. Bonifacio was one of those better men. I know that on his fateful day he saved the lives of several of his comrades.”

Capt. Paul Judge, the D Co., 4-64 commander remembered Bonifacio as a noncommissioned officer that far was from “old and crusty” but was no less professional than any sergeant major. Professionalism means a lot to Judge and Bonifacio brought a platoon of Soldiers that fit the description of professionalism to a “T.”

“He was always straightforward and honest,” Judge said. “He’d ask simple questions, make corrections and like all of us worked tirelessly to complete the mission and



Sgt. Jerry Lee Bonifacio Jr.

May 13, 1977 - October 10, 2005

make sure everyone came home safe.”

A fellow 1-184 Soldier, Sgt. Gerritt Hylkema said that Bonifacio’s friends came before anything else for him, but his Soldiers were just as important.

“The Soldiers respected him and their respect for him went far past what any NCO could expect from one of their Soldiers because of the type of leader he was. Whatever knowledge he had; life, military, he was more than willing to share with his guys. No matter how you approached him, whether you were mad or angry, in any way shape or form, he would stand there and take it without any emotion and be there for you.”

Like any good NCO, Bonifacio would not ask his Soldiers to do something he himself would not do.

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“If his men were exhausted he would take it upon himself to finish the mission so his men could rest,” Hylkema said. “He did it without any gripes or complaints.”

Hylkema went on to share what Bonifacio was like when not outside the wire.

“I don’t think I’ve ever seen him angry,” he said. “He was a happy guy no matter what time of day or night. He’d wake every morning singing, before he went to sleep he would blast his stereo, his life was a simple one; from reading comic books to playing video games and watching cartoons. If there was anything you ever wanted to know about those subjects you could go ask him.”

Instead of talking about his memories of Bonifacio for “days or months” Hylkema offered one final thought.

“For those of us who really knew him, we loved him; we loved him as a member of our own family, we will continue to do so for the rest of our lives.”

Sgt. Evan Parker

by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — “His was a dangerous duty, day in and day out going outside the wire to prevent our adversaries from hurting others,” said Lt. Col. Keith Tamashiro, commander of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery.

Sgt. Parker was born on May 1, 1980, in Wichita, Kansas. He joined the Army after graduating from high school and served four years on active duty with the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii.

He was recalled to active duty in November of 2004 to deploy with the 29th Brigade Combat Team, as a Forward Artillery Observer with the 1st Battalion, 487th



Sgt. Evan S. Parker

May 1, 1980 – October 26, 2005

Field Artillery. “Sgt. Evan Parker is a true hero who paid the ultimate sacrifice. He was an IRR (inactive ready reserve) soldier who had already served his time on active duty and yet upon receiving word that his country needed him again, he stood proudly and with honor and gave it his absolute all,” said Lt. Col. Tamashiro.

Sgt. Parker was attached to Company C, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry. Sgt. Parker arrived in Iraq in March of 2005. In May of 2005, Sgt. Parker was awarded his first Purple Heart after being wounded.

Sgt. Parker was critically wounded in action on October 23, 2005, while manning a traffic check point with soldiers from the 100th Bn. He died of his wounds on October 26, at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He was awarded his second Purple Heart

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posthumously. Sgt. Parker is survived by his sons, Blake Edward (age 6), Conner James (age 4), his mother Anita Foster, his father Danny Parker and stepmother Tanya Parker. He is also survived by his grand parents, brothers, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

“The soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery lost more than a soldier, we lost a brother. And although Sgt. Parker will no longer be with us physically, his spirit will remain with his ‘Hiki No’ and ‘Go For Broke’ brothers forever. We will never forget his courage and take some comfort in knowing that he is in peace with God in Heaven,” said Lt. Col. Tamashiro.

Sgt. Parker’s military awards include the: Bronze Star (posthumous), two Purple Hearts, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (“M” Device), National Defense Service medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, Global War on Terrorism Service medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Army Service Ribbon. He was also awarded the Combat Action Badge posthumously.



Capt. Michael John MacKinnon

May 26, 1975 – October 27, 2005

Capt. Michael MacKinnon

by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq — “I’ve been given an impossible mission, because words have not yet been fashioned to properly describe a man as noble, as brave, as selfless and as gifted as Capt. MacKinnon,” said Capt. Daniel Bout.

Capt. Michael J. MacKinnon was born and raised in Helena, Montana. He received his commission through the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Systems Engineering in 1997. Upon completing the Infantry Officer’s Basic Course at Ft. Benning, Ga, he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer as well as a Support Platoon Leader. Upon graduation from the Infantry Captain’s Career Course, Capt. MacKinnon was assigned as an Assistant Operations Officer to the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, where he served as the officer in charge of the Tactical Command Post during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Capt. MacKinnon also served as the Adjutant to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment and later assumed command of Company B, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, known as the “Tuskers.” Capt. MacKinnon deployed with his company in January of 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon arrival in theater they began conducting a full-spectrum of counter-insurgency opera-

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tions.

In August of 2005, Capt. MacKinnon assumed command of Company A, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry. “Capt. Mackinnon came to A Company, 1st Battalion 184th Inf. when we were at our lowest point - and through his perfect example and powerful will he took something broken and made it new again. From the moment he arrived he treated every soldier with dignity, grace, and respect. And because of that we loved him. He led with resolve, courage, and wisdom. And because of that we respected him. He never had to ask for either, he just spontaneously inspired that kind of devotion,” said Bout.

Capt. MacKinnon’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Expert and Combat Infantryman Badges.

Capt. MacKinnon is survived by his wife Bethany and two children, Madison and Noah. “[Mike] and I would sit together every night after everything settled down and he would talk about how much he missed his wife, and his son and daughter. His heart never strayed from his family, and somehow our conversations always steered towards their last soccer game, or the first time he met his wife,” said Bout.

Col. William Wood

by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq — Col. William Wesley Wood was commissioned as an Infantry 2nd Lt. after graduating from Florida State University in 1984. Col. Wood’s assignments include service as a Platoon Leader with the 3rd Battalion, 7th



Col. William Wesley Wood

October 12, 1961 – October 27, 2005

Infantry Regiment, where he also served as a Company Executive Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He also served with the 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry as a Battalion Motor Officer and with Company C as its Commander. He then commanded the Headquarters Company of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry. Col. Wood also served with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment in both Vilseck and Kosovo as the Battalion Operations Officer; he moved on through numerous other assignments and positions of great responsibility until he assumed command of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry, known as the “Nightstalkers,” in late July of 2005.

“He loved his soldiers and he was there taking care of

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them,” said Col Glenn Burch, Chief of Staff of the 3rd Infantry Division.

Colonel Wood’s awards and decorations include the: Bronze Star Medal with V Device, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal (five Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (two Oak Leaf Clusters), the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star Device, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Expert Infantryman’s Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

“He was doing what battalion commanders should be doing — leading from the front,” said John M. Kidd, garrison commander of Ft. Stewart Ga.

Colonel Wood is survived by his wife, Nanci, and their daughter, Rachel.



Spc. Shakere Taffari Guy

July 18, 1982 - October 29, 2005

Spc. Shakere Guy

by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq — “There are many things for which he will be remembered, but what we will never forget is his desire to help others and his commitment to the mission assigned to him,” said Spc. Jose Farias.

Spc. Shakere T. Guy was born on July 18, 1982, in Kingston, Jamaica. Spc. Guy entered the California Army National Guard on June 22, 2000, and served as a tanker with Troop A, 1st Battalion, 18th Cavalry, based in Pomona, California. He joined Company D, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry on November 3, 2004 to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was attached to the Psychological Operations Detachment as a Humvee turret gunner in June of this year. “Guy was by my side engaging the enemy during our very first IED

[road side bomb attack], followed by small arms fire. I couldn’t have asked for a better soldier by my side,” said Farias.

Although his assignment was not with an armor unit, Guy took every opportunity to tell his fellow soldiers how proud he was to be a “tanker.” He had a fondness for computers and enjoyed Southern California’s night life. “He had a great sense of humor, always wearing a smile and in the mood for joking by making dull moments pleasant,” said Farias. Spc. Guy resided in Pomona where he worked at Home Depot and attended college full-time.

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Spc. Guy's awards and decorations include the: Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal with second award, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar and Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device.

He is survived by his mother, Donna Sanguinette, daughter Jezelle and sister, Tracy Ann Smith, of Pomona, California. He cherished his family dearly. "He was committed to his family, fiancé Latsha Quintana, his daughter Jezelle and to his brothers that are gathered here today," said Farias at Guy's memorial service.

Capt. Raymond Hill

by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq — "First and foremost he was a kind and gentle man. He rarely had a harsh word for anyone. As the Battalion Fire Support Officer, he was in charge of plotting lethal fires. The truth of the matter is that he took more pleasure in plotting the distribution of humanitarian assistance than he did in planning the destruction of his fellow man," said 1st Lt. Cameron Murphy, who worked with Capt Hill.

Capt. Raymond D. Hill was born and raised in the San Joaquin central valley in California where he graduated from Ceres High School. He attended the California State University at Stanislaus and graduated with a B.A. in Liberal Studies in 1998. He resided in Turlock, California, where in his civilian life, he worked for the Modesto Irrigation District as an Engineering Technician. He had been an active member of the 4-H Club for many years.

Capt. Hill enlisted in the California Army National Guard in 1987 and was assigned to Company E, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry. He received his commission through the California State Officer Candidate School program



Capt. Raymond D. Hill

April 14, 1966 – October 29, 2005

on August 22, 1997. He served as an Anti-Armor Platoon Leader with Company D, as well as a Mortar Platoon Leader for Headquarters Company. In 2002 he deployed to Kuwait as a Platoon Leader with Company A. Upon completion of his Field Artillery Captain's Career Course, he served as the Fire Support Officer for the battalion and commanded Detachment 1, Headquarters, Headquarters Support Battery, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery.

He was promoted to the rank of Captain on September 23, 2004. He deployed with the 1st Battalion, 184th Inf. in August of 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and had served in Iraq since January of 2005. While

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with the Night Stalkers, he performed three challenging positions simultaneously: Fire Support Officer, Information Operations Officer and Unit Public Affairs Representative.

Capt. Hill's awards and decorations include the: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (second award), National Defense Service Medal (second award), Armed Forces Expedition Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device (second award), NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

He is survived by his wife Dena, daughters Alyssa and Bree Anna, and his father. "Ray loved his family. The first thing you saw when entering his office were pictures of his wife and daughters. Anyone who spent any amount of time with Ray knew that his daughters were the center of his life. He constantly kept us updated as to their achievements in track, and how well they were doing in school," said Murphy.

(Capt. Hill was a personal friend of the Lava Flow Staff. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Dena, Alyssa and Bree Anna. We'll never forget Ray, or what an excellent soldier and man he was.)

Cpl. Derence W. Jack

by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — "It seems an almost impossible task to portray to all of you just what an extraordinary person Cpl. Jack was. Whatever the task given to him, difficult or easy, he would always respond with 'Estammbee!' which meant, 'No Problem!' said his friend Spc. Winfred Camacho, also of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry.



Cpl. Derence W. Jack

November 17, 1973 – October 31, 2005

Cpl. Derence W. Jack was born and raised in Saipan. He attended the Marianas High School, graduating in 1992. He enlisted in March of 2000 as an infantryman assigned to Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Inf. He served as a rifleman, grenadier and team leader. Cpl. Jack, known as "Jeff" to his buddies, was posthumously promoted from the rank of specialist to corporal. In civilian life he worked as a Cash Department Manager for the Bank of Guam.

"He never complained or got upset and he was always there to lift our spirits," said Camacho.

Some of Cpl. Jack's awards and badges include the:

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Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal ("M" Device), National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.

"There are many other words unsaid that describe the person Jeff was, as we keep him in our thoughts, our memories and in our hearts forever," said Camacho.

Cpl. Jack is survived by his wife Melisa, daughter Jazmyn (age 4), father and mother Simsack and Carmina, as well as his grandparents.

Staff Sgt. Wilgene T. Lieto

by Cpt. Kyle Yonemura

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — "Life for us will never be the same without you and Cpl. Jack, but we will live on. In your strength as you once wrote and I quote, 'I can live with losing a good fight, but I can't live not fighting,'" said Sgt. Peter Mesa, who served with Staff Sgt. Lieto.

Staff Sgt. Wilgene T. Lieto was born and raised in Saipan. He attended Marianas High School, graduating in 1997. He then attended Northern Marianas College. Staff Sgt. Lieto enlisted in August of 1999 as an infantryman, serving with Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry. He served as a rifleman, grenadier and team leader. He was the distinguished honor graduate of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense Course he attended in 2004. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in December of 2003 and promoted to Staff Sergeant posthumously. In civilian life Staff Sgt. Lieto served his community in Saipan as a police officer.

"He was a man always positive and optimistic in every aspect in life and always wore a smile that we will never forget," said Sgt. Mesa.



Staff Sgt. Wilgene T. Lieto

March 22, 1977 – October 31, 2005

Some of his awards and badges include the: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal ("M" Device), National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

He is survived by his wife, Tiara, son Wilgene II (age 4), daughter Calia (age 3), his father and mother William and Julie Lieto and his grandparents. "He was a family man, a husband, a father, a son, a soldier, a leader, a brother and most especially, a friend to all," said Spc. Winfred Camacho.

"You will always live in our memories and in our hearts," said Mesa.

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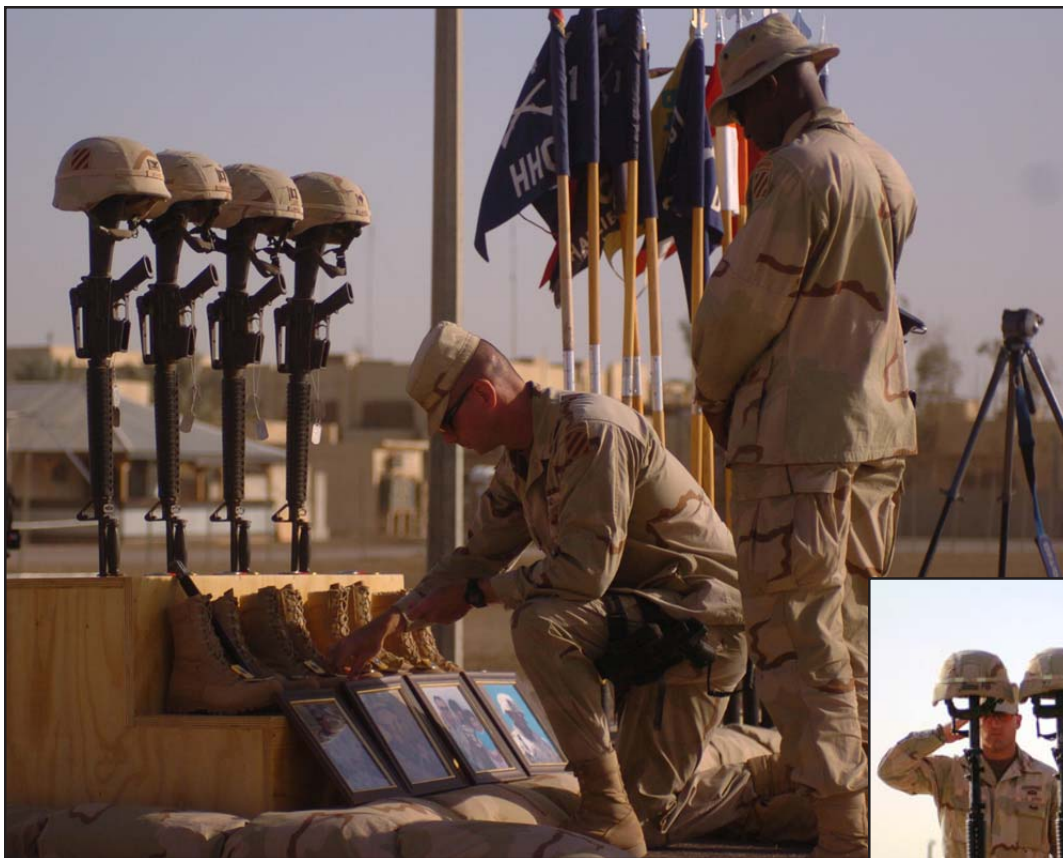


Photo By Sgt. Lauran Robinson



Photo By Sgt. Lauran Robinson



Photo Courtesy of Maj. Alayne Conway



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Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Island Troops Assist Iraqi Elections

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, IRAQ — To prepare for the Iraqi constitutional referendum, soldiers from the Hawai'i-based 227th Combat Engineer Company and 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry have been working to help the residents of villages near LSA Anaconda improve security for the historic event.

To assist with a safe voting process, soldiers from the 227th set up concertina wire, a type of barbed wire, around polling sites in the villages of Albu Hishma and Bakr Village on Oct. 11.

During the elections, Iraqi police and Iraqi Army personnel will provide security at the polling sites while American forces provide area security.

"None of our forces will be in any of the villages during the elections," said Maj. Paul Takata of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry. Both Albu Hishma and Bakr Village are within the 100th Bn.'s area of operations.



Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Iraqi police officers provided security for the 227th Combat Engineer Co. as the set up concertina wire around a polling site in Albu Hishma. The Iraqi Police were backed by guntrucks from the 100th Bn., 442nd Inf.

"We'll be playing a support role and will only respond to situations if we're asked to by Iraqi officials," Takata said.



Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Sgt. Glen Peneku secures concertina wire in Albu Hishma.

Iraqi police provided security for the engineers as they laid out and staked-in hundreds of yards of concertina wire around the schools that will be used as polling sites. The Iraqi police were augmented by soldiers from Company E, 100th Bn., 442nd Inf. who used their gun trucks, (armored Humvees with turret-mounted weapons) to help provide security for the engineers as they worked.

"It feels good to be a part of a historic event," said Sgt. Glen Peneku, a squad leader with the support platoon of the 227th. "We're playing a role in helping the Iraqi people determine their own future."

During the convoy to Albu Hishma, the Hawai'i-based soldiers faced the dangers they endure each time they leave the wire. The patrol passed an improvised explosive device that didn't detonate.

Spc. Jeff Diaz, a turret gunner in one of the 100th vehicles, spotted the IED. "It was on the left side of the road," Diaz said. "I saw the typical way they (insurgents) hide them (roadside bombs) as we passed."

Diaz, a bank manager for the Bank of Guam, is from

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Saipan.

After completing their work in Albu Hishma, the soldiers moved on to Bakr Village. After they reached the Bakr Village entrance road, an IED detonated about 75 yards from the third vehicle in the patrol.

“I definitely felt the concussion of the explosion,” said Maj. Neal Mitsuyoshi, the 29th BCT Staff Engineer. He was a passenger in the third Humvee. None of the soldiers were injured in the attack.

“To me it doesn’t matter if the Iraqis vote yes or no on the referendum,” Mitsuyoshi said. “Just the fact that Iraqis turn out to voice their wishes in the form of voting demonstrates an important step in the right direction for the future of Iraq.”

The only woman on the mission, Spc. Bobbi Brown, was excited about her role as an engineer. Brown, 25, a nursing student from Wisconsin, was “cross-leveled” into the 227th out of the Inactive Ready Reserve.

“They put me into the combat engineers because my name is ‘Bobbi’ and they assumed I was a guy,” she said. “So when I got here, I got stuck in an office for two weeks while they decided what to do with me.

“Yesterday was my first time outside the wire and I was excited and worried. It took a while for the guys to get used to having a female around, but now they let me do stuff.”

SPOD security force operations with 227th Combat Engineers

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

ASH SHUAIBAH, Kuwait — The 227th Combat Engineer Company provides security force operations side by side with US Navy personnel at the Port of Ash Shuaibah, a commercial port used as a seaport of debarkation

by Coalition forces to off-load equipment, vehicles, and supplies.

The 227th Combat Engineer Co. was split into its component elements and given various missions in Iraq and Kuwait. While the heavy equipment support element of 227th Combat Engineer Co., headed north to Logistic Support Area Anaconda in Iraq, the rest of the unit stayed in Kuwait to provide security force operations at the seaport of debarkation in Ash Shuaibah. Soldiers from 107th Combat Engineer Co. from Michigan were attached to the unit.

The soldiers of 227th Combat Engineer Co. in Kuwait



Photo By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Sgt. Trever Mashak of 227th Combat Engineer Co. from Mich. checks in vehicles as Master of Arms, Seaman Gustin Keith of the US Navy working together to provide security force operations at Ash Shuaibah.

are stationed in Camp Arifjan and commute to work every day for their eight hour shifts.

They share the security force operations with the US Navy master of arms, who are equivalent to military police in the Army. The Navy works in cooperation with the soldiers of 227th Combat Engineer Co. providing security force operations at the seaport of debarkation. The operations include searching all vehicles and personnel at the entry control points leading into the facilities. They grant access into the port to authorized per-

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sonnel at various check points. They work together at guard towers over watching the facility. The security force operation also has two quick reaction force teams to respond to emergencies, and provide extra security.

The soldiers of 227th Combat Engineer Co., continue to train throughout their deployment. They also participate in sea side battle drills in which the whole port practices skills and enacts scenarios to train for an emergency or an attack. "We stay vigilant so that nothing catches us off guard" said 1st Lt. Daniel Eady, the officer in charge at the Battle Defense Center, which oversees the security of the port.

Military Police Rise to the Challenge

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANCONDA, Iraq — The Military Police Platoon assigned to Headquarter, Headquarters Company, 29th Brigade Combat Team, has performed a variety of missions that has kept the soldiers

busy since their arrival in Iraq.

The missions the MPs perform include escorting explosive ordinance teams to locations in which roadside bombs have been located so that the bombs can be destroyed, providing security for tactical human intelligence teams that operate in the area, transporting captured insurgents to holding facilities, as well as escorting private contractors to local villages to repair water



Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

MPs get in some range time at Range Hawaii in Balad.

pumps for local Iraqis. They also provide personal security for VIPs, have guarded detainees at the Air Force Theater Hospital, provide oversight for the brigade detainee holding facility and conduct combat reconnaissance patrols around Logistic Support Area Anaconda.

The MPs performed their missions initially with less than a full platoon. "When we first got into theater we only had two squads, so we were really busy," said Spc. Sung Yi.

"In the beginning we were over tasked," said MP Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Denise Cavazos-Cavasier. "One night after six hours of guarding detainees, we were tasked to conduct a VIP escort to Baghdad all day, when we got back we went straight into taking the detainees we had been guarding earlier up to Tikrit," said Cavazos-Cavasier, "We worked 24 hours straight without any



Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

The 29th BCT Military Police platoon leaves on an early morning escort to Range Hawaii in Balad.

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Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

MPs clear their weapons before entering the wire after an escort mission.

rest.”

“I’ve done that at on at least a half dozen occasions,” added Spc. Andy Tafulai.

The multitude of missions the MPs perform has taken them outside the wire on numerous occasions and they’ve patrolled thousands of miles over hazardous roadways during the past nine months. “We’ve been blessed,” said Staff Sgt. Lionel Lumauag, “we haven’t been hit by any IEDs or taken any casualties.”

“I don’t want to jinx us, but we’ve been really lucky,” added Cavazos-Cavasier.

While none of the MPs have been injured, they have been fired upon while on missions, “we’ve taken small arms fire on occasion,” said Spc. Daniel Mabalot, “we’ve also been shot at while convoying back from Baghdad.”

“I’m really proud of my guys,” said Cavazos-Cavasier, “If the mission calls for them getting up at 3:00 a.m., they’re there and ready to go. It doesn’t matter how busy they’ve been before that.”

Soldiers protect the feet of Iraqi children

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — The heart of one soldier from 1st Platoon, F Troop, 82nd Cavalry, has led the way in a humanitarian mission for children living in the nearby villages around LSA Anaconda.

The soldiers of 1st Plt., are part of the quick reaction force ensuring base security around LSA Anaconda. On September 29th, they conducted a routine patrol outside the post through an area where they were no strangers. One soldier called over the internal radio “We’ve picked up a small parade here.” Iraqi children came running towards the humvees in mass to greet them. As the vehicles drove



Photo By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Staff Sgt. Kevin Yeamans of 1st Plt., F Troop, 82nd Cav., passes out donated soccerballs to the local national children outside of LSA Anaconda during a patrol.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD



Photo By Lauran Robinson

A local national boy helps Sgt. 1st Class Jarred Morgan of F Troop, 82nd Cav. get the children in line to receive donated soccerballs and shirts.

slowly down a narrow dirt road, the children ran alongside the vehicles waving to the soldiers through the windows. The patrol stopped inside a village and the soldiers became magnets for the children as they got out of their vehicles, surrounded by kids asking for anything and everything. The soldiers did not disappoint them. They passed out soccer balls and t-shirts to the children.

The humanitarian missions began in March when Sgt Joseph Coon, of Portland Ore., a member of 1st Plt., discovered that Iraqi children lacked shoes to protect their feet. "When we first got here, we were treating a lot of foot injuries," said Sgt Coon. He coordinated with his family members back home to get shoes for the local children. They sent out flyers, put ads in newspapers, started school drives, and set up donation boxes and the shoes started coming in.

A total of 77 boxes filled with donated shoes traveled half way around the world and into the hands or onto the feet of Iraqi children around LSA Anaconda. "I really like kids. I try to talk to them and get to know them" said Sgt. Coon.

Sgt. Coon also produced a website which asked for donations. He posted photos of the soldier's humanitarian efforts. "[Donators] get to see where the donations are going. It's an ongoing story, and they always ask about the kids," said Sgt. Coon. The website has been visited by over 22,000 people, and has brought in more donations nationally and even from Canada.

The soldiers of 1st Plt., F Troop, 82nd Cav., have passed out over 2,000 pairs of shoes and 300 pounds of clothes to the children. "All the credit goes out to the families for their donations. We've got the fun job of passing it out" said Sgt. Coon.



Photo By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Soldiers from 1st Plt., F Troop, 82nd Cav. patrol the outer perimeter of LSA Anaconda.

The humanitarian aid led by Sgt. Coon has been winning the hearts of the children around LSA Anaconda. "It fosters a better relationship with the populous. And seeing the kids smile gives us the warm and fuzzies," said Sgt. 1st Class Jarred Morgan, who misses his own children at home.

Island Troops Shake the Shaka in Iraq

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, IRAQ — The shaka is alive and well in Iraq thanks to Hawaii based soldiers from the 227th Combat Engineer Company, the 29th Brigade Combat Team military police platoon and the infantrymen of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, who have taught the traditional Hawaiian hand gesture to Iraqi children in villages surrounding LSA Anaconda.

While it has been widely reported that the shaka was banned at Camp Victory in Baghdad after it was displayed to the wrong person (urban legend holds that it sparked the ire of a senior officer), the shaka is being wiggled on little hands in all of the villages that are patrolled by soldiers from Hawaii.

Upon arrival at LSA Anaconda in February of this year, the soldiers set about sharing some of their island culture with the children who reside in surrounding villages.

The Hawaii based soldiers regularly hand out candy and toys while on patrols and during these interactions they've taught the children how to flash the cultural salute. "It was cute watching some of the kids trying to force their hands into the shape of a shaka," said Sgt. Lionel Lumauag, a squad leader with the 29th BCT MP Platoon, "Now, most of them are good at it," he added.

"As soon as they recognize our patch, all the children start showing us the shaka," said Sgt. 1st Class Don Bongo of the 227th Combat Engineer Company, "We share our extra food and water with the Iraqis that live in the area as part of the aloha spirit and now the Iraqis get really happy when they see the shoulder patches of the soldiers from Hawaii."

The Iraqi children now automatically flash the shaka at all of the soldiers who wear the 29th BCT or 442nd Inf. patch that patrol through their villages, including at the cavalry troop from Oregon that acts as the 29th BCT



Photo By Capt. Yonemura

Iraqi school children wave the shaka at soldiers in the village of Albu Hishma.

quick reaction force. "I didn't know what the shaka was when I first got here, but I've seen all of the kids waving it around for months now," said Sgt. Jason Davis. Davis, a student from Portland Oregon, is a member of F Troop, 82nd Cavalry, "Now I know it means 'hang loose,' we're friends."

"Hopefully while we've been here we've taught the children that the shaka is a more than just a hand sign," said Spc. Sung Yi of the Military Police Platoon. In civilian life Yi is a police officer with the Honolulu Police Department who works in Waikiki, "I want them to understand that it's also a gesture that means we like each other and that everything's cool between us."

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Iron Chefs of Iraq...What is your favorite recipe you concoct out of DFAC food?

By Sgt. Suzette Fernandez

Sgt. Alex Duldulao

Co. A, 2nd Bn., 299th Inf.

I like making my “Stew Special” — I use the DFAC potatoes, mushrooms, carrots, and onions to make stew.



Spc Lionel Quindica

227th Combat Engineer Co., 29th BCT

I enjoy cooking shrimp curry. The DFAC provides the onions, carrots, potatoes and celery and battered shrimp. The curry sauce is homemade from S&B. This is on over a bowl of hot rice.



Staff Sgt. Jerry Yuen

229 Military Intelligence Co, 29th BCT

Fried Rice. I use the DFAC celery, onions, bean sprouts, carrots, and shoyu.

The Spam and Lup Chong are from the care packages from home.

Master Sgt. Craig Ikeda

HHC 29th BCT

My section enjoys eating my Korean Style Chicken. Fried Chicken from the DFAC works best, I also take green onions from the salad bar. My wife sends me the rest of the ingredients — shoyu, brown sugar and garlic. This is a secret family recipe passed down from generation to generation.



STAFF SECTION

29 BCT SAFETY ACCIDENTS ON & OFF DUTY

By Chief Warrant Officer Richard Hargrave

Are we at risk? Recent history shows that motor vehicles, both AMVs and POVs, with motorcycles leading the list of vehicle accidents, accounts for most of our fatalities. Accidents during and after deployments is not bad luck, it is all about effective leadership. On and off duty injuries are caused from the direct result of Senior NCOs and supervisors not enforcing and maintaining the established safety standards. Let us reverse the trends to affect each soldier's behavior. Safety briefings alone sometimes may not reach all soldiers, so extra emphasis of the objective "No Loss of Life" is our attainable goal. We are a team, all working together both in theater and at home, and are an important part of our combat readiness. Be visible and provide one-on-one counseling to care for your soldiers and be concerned as a 1st line supervisor. Leaders must engage with soldiers, influence their behavior, and embrace the opportunity to mentor each soldier. The major causes of accidents found are the same, (not wearing seat belts, helmets or proper PPE, fatigue and drinking while driving), only the victims are different. When the loss of a soldier is due to a preventable accident of any kind, the impact of our combat power is directly affected. However, the real loss is felt by family members and it remains as a leadership problem and not a soldier problem. Extend Risk Management efforts to Sr NCO Leaders, so they can mentor, counsel and mitigate the risk.

Soldiers at all levels will comply with the accident reporting and investigation process, to efficiently target risk areas. If anyone thinks that a good safety program is nothing more than a policy memorandum and a safety officer, they need to think again. An effective safety program requires an engaged commander and leader to execute a deliberate risk management program to take care of one another to ensure excellence.

Finding an aggressive way to change the mindset of how we think about safety and the process of including

safety in all of our missions, is the major challenge we need to overcome. Leaders must focus on teamwork, unity, mission, risk management and be proactive in their planning toward maintaining combat readiness to avoid preventable accidents

Each leader is responsible and will be accountable for enforcing the established standards.

BE SAFE — MAKE IT HOME

Getting Your "Stuff" Home

By Capt. Natalie Lewellen
29th BCT JAG SJA Assistant

With our upcoming re-deployment around the corner, we will begin to inventory our growing collection of military and personal gear. At some point, we will likely wonder, "How am I going to get all this 'stuff' home?" We all know that issued military property must be accounted and returned or we risk paying for it and personal property must be properly packaged and transported or risk loss or damage to it.

MILITARY PROPERTY – Uniforms, boots, Kevlars, IBA, NBC protective equipment, PT gear, sunglasses, dust goggles, winter gear, summer gear, caps, hats, gloves and much more. We brought it. We were issued it. We were issued more of it. How do we get it home?

Two Duffels & A Ruck. Certain OCIE and/or RFI that you were issued must be turned in for demobilization. Although items of military property may have been *issued* to you, it still *belongs* to the government. As such, do not discard or "give away" military items. The "turn-in" lists for demobilization differ for IRR troops, NG "filler" troops and traditional 29th BCT IDT & AGR troops. Your supply sergeant's expertise can help you determine what you will need to turn in. However, do not wait until the last minute to see your supply section for help. Proper care for government property is the

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responsibility of every 29th BCT soldier. Army Regulation 735-5, *Policies and Procedures for Property Accountability*, 28 February 2005, directs that those who fail to properly account or care for military property may have to reimburse the government for some or all loss or damage. Time to dust off your packing skills!

Clean It. Turn It In. While it may be difficult to fit all of your military-issued gear in the amount of luggage authorized (two duffel bags and a ruck sack), it still must be accounted. If all turn in items do not fit in the two duffels and a ruck, they can be cleaned and turned in to the supply sergeant who will issue a DA 2026 hand receipt for the item. This document will authorize you to clear CIF - so hold on to it! In fact, it is recommended that all soldiers retain copies of all "issue" and "turn-in" documents for at least one year.

PERSONAL PROPERTY - We brought MP3 players, laptop computers, pillows and blankets. We ordered cameras, DVDs, games and books. We received care packages of CDs, pictures, plates and dishes. We bought TVs, Playstations, rugs and clothing. Most of us have more property to send home than we had to bring with us. How do we get it home?

Carry It. In addition to the two duffels and a ruck for military gear, you are authorized to take one piece of "carry-on" luggage for items of personal property. The carry-on must be small enough to fit under a standard airplane seat or overhead compartment, such as a backpack or computer case. The United States Customs Service advises that personal items such as prescription medication, documents and other sensitive items and valuables should be hand-carried.

Mail It. At your own expense, you can mail personal property directly to your residence via the U.S. Postal Service. For a small additional fee, you can purchase insurance to cover loss, damage or destruction. The U.S. Postal Service will insure and pay actual value minus depreciation up to \$5,000 of goods *per package*. Don't forget to keep those receipts!

CONEX It. If available, your command may decide to

offer limited space for personal items in containers express (CONEX).

Whether you take property with you on the plane or mail it home ahead of you, ensure that items are properly listed, marked and secured to minimize the risk of loss, damage or destruction. Army Regulation 27-20, *Claims*, authorizes settlement of claims for loss, damage or destruction of personal property incident to service. AR 27-20 requires that servicemembers substantiate loss or damage, ownership or possession and value. Servicemembers wishing to submit claims must contact the nearest active duty installation Claims Office.

IN TRANSIT - Please remember that law, regulation and policy prohibits certain items and unauthorized war souvenirs from entering the aviation and postal systems. All packages, boxes, bags and containers are subject to inspection prior to being mailed, shipped or carried.

Prohibited. Some of the prohibited items include but are not limited to: cigarette lighters and matches; sand or soil; poisonous insects to include camel spiders; plants or plant products; fruits and vegetables (unless presented in a dry condition); military equipment such as TA-50 and chemical defense equipment; ammunition; switchblades; pistols; drug paraphernalia; alcohol and food products containing alcohol such as candies, cookies and cakes; pork or pork products; unexploded or exploded ordnance; fireworks; and pesticides.

Authorized. The following items identified as mailable include but are not limited to: footlockers; duffel bags; military clothing or uniforms and boots, such as DCUs; bayonets (must be sheathed and securely packaged to prevent protrusion); war souvenirs retained for personal mementos to include head coverings, uniform insignia and patches, flags, books, training materials and posters.

For more information on these matters, contact your 29th BCT legal assistance office at 829.1333, or a legal assistance office near you. Additional resources: U.S. Postal Service, www.usps.com, U.S. Customs Service, www.customs.ustreas.gov; and U.S. Army Claims Service, www.jagcnet.army.mil.

Commander's Corner (Cont)

So on November 11, 2005, I call upon all the warriors of this great brigade to observe Veterans Day by remembering the sacrifices of all those who fought so gallantly, and through rededication to the task of promoting an enduring peace. Let us give thanks for our freedom, let us give thanks for all that is good and that we have made right in Iraq, let us give thanks for our warrior buddies who stand and fight with us for this noble cause, and let us always remember, honor and pay tribute to our fallen comrades, Sergeant Watkins, Sergeant Estrada, Sergeant Duplantier II, Sergeant Cariaga, Sergeant Tiai, Sergeant Silva, Staff Sergeant Scheile, Sergeant Neubauer, Sergeant Sonoda, Sergeant Bonifacio, Sergeant Parker, Specialist Guy, Captain Mackinnon, Captain Hill, Colonel Wood, Corporal Jack and Staff Sergeant Lieto.. For in their sacrifice, we find courage, strength and inspiration to continue our quest for peace and freedom in the world.

Lava!



Photo By Staff Sgt. Christopher Tabangcura

The "Halau Hulu 'O Lava Brigade", made of soldiers from HHC, 29th BCT, performed with other groups in the 29th Brigade Combat Team for the Medal of Honor recipients who were visiting LSA Anaconda on October 31, 2005.

"I have finished second twice in my time at Green Bay, and I don't ever want to finish second again. There is a second place bowl game, but it is a game for losers played by losers. It is and always has been an American zeal to be first in anything we do, and to win, and to win, and to win. Every time a football player goes to ply his trade he's got to play from the ground up - from the soles of his feet right up to his head. Every inch of him has to play. Some guys play with their heads. That's O.K. you've got to be smart to be number one in any business. But more importantly, you've got to play with your heart, with every fiber of your body. If you're lucky enough to find a guy with a lot of head and a lot of heart, he's never going to come off the field second. Running a football team is no different than running any other kind of organization - an army, a political party or a business. The principles are the same. The object is to win - to beat the other guy. Maybe that sounds hard or cruel. I don't think it is.

"It is a reality of life that men are competitive and the most competitive games draw the most competitive men. That's why they are there - to compete. To know the rules and objectives when they get in the game. The object is to win fairly, squarely, by the rules - but to win.

"And in truth, I've never known a man worth his salt who in the long run, deep down in his heart, didn't appreciate the grind, the discipline. There is something in good men that really yearns for discipline and the harsh reality of head to head combat.

"I don't say these things because I believe in the "brute" nature of man or that men must be brutalized to be combative. I believe in God, and I believe in human decency. But I firmly believe that anyman's finest hour - his greatest fulfillment to all he holds dear - is that moment when he has to work his heart out in a good cause and he's exhausted on the field of battle - victorious."

— Vince Lombardi

STAFF SECTION

CSM's Message (Cont)

your family and your friends realize that these changes are natural, and with a little patience, things will get back to normal.

In the meantime, every Soldier has to maintain their professionalism, and combat focus. Our mission is not done yet and we have a serious job to complete until the next unit replaces us. You've all contributed to the success of the Referendum voting whether it was through providing force protection barriers, manning check points, or to providing the support to those troops doing that work. There are many positive things that are occurring daily even though the media never seems to cover it sufficiently. You have all, directly or indirectly affected this by your presence, so don't think that your work was insignificant here.

I just came back from spending a few days with the 1-184th Infantry Battalion to visit and talk to some of their NCOs and Soldiers. They have all grieved for their

casualties, but the soldiers know that they have to put that behind them and complete their mission. I saw good strong fellowship, strong Officer and NCO leadership, great camaraderie, and good morale. I was fortunate to be able to go out on a couple of patrols in the same hazardous areas with them to experience what they experience on a daily basis.

I will continue doing my battlefield circulation with all the other units to the maximum extent possible.

Keep communications open as Soldiers have a lot of questions regarding redeployment and demobilization. Continue discussing *Safety* to prevent senseless injuries or losses to both personnel and equipment. Maintain your discipline and be proud of what you are doing here.

Lava, CSM Inouye

Do you have a Question, Concern, or Issue?

**29th BCT Inspector General (IG)
MAJ William Foss**

william.foss@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

NEW LOCATION: Co-Located with the 29th BCT Retention NCO in the trailer nearest the Medic Training Center, adjacent to Bldg. 4130, LSA Anaconda

NEW PHONE TOO: VOIP: 302-242-9127

**Secure the
incident site.**

**A second device
could be waiting
for you.**



STAY ALIVE

0004

IEDs KILL

Chaplain's Blessing



Photo by Sgt. Terry Eldred

This thought was sent from a devoted wife in Hawaii to her beloved husband who is with the 29th BCT, and serving alongside you and I. This November season, we give thanks to God for his great provisions. This story reminds us to go beyond thanking for our "provisions", but also thanking for our trials, and hardships. For it is by going through the refiner's fire and maintaining trust through difficulties, we become a better people.

"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing."

-Jeremiah 10:23-24 (KJV)

Many years ago, the most magnificent diamond in the world's history was found in an African mine . It was presented to the king of England to blaze in his crown of state. The king sent it to Amsterdam to be cut. It was put into the hands of an expert lapidary.

And what do you suppose he did with it? He took the gem of priceless value, and cut a notch in it. Then he struck a hard blow with his instrument and... the magnificent diamond lay in his hand, cleft in two.

Did he do this out of recklessness, wastefulness, or criminal carelessness?

No! For days and weeks that blow had been studied and planned. Drawings and models had been made of the gem. Its quality, its defects, its lines of cleavage had all been studied with minutest care. The man to whom it was committed was one of the most skillful lapidaries in the world.

Was that blow a mistake? Not at all! It was the climax of the lapidary's skill. When he struck that blow, he did the one thing which would bring that gem to perfection and splendor. That blow, which seemed to ruin the superb stone was, in fact, its perfect redemption. From those two halves were made two magnificent gems which the skilled eye of the lapidary saw hidden in the rough, uncut stone as it came from the mine.

Sometimes, God lets a stinging blow fall upon your life. The blood spurts; the nerves wince, the soul cries out in agony. The blow seems to you an appalling mistake. But it is not, for you are the most priceless jewel in the world to God. And He is the most skilled lapidary in the universe.

Let us beware of questioning the methods and approaches of almighty God.

We lie in His hands, and He knows just how to deal with us. Will we allow Him to mold us into what we are destined to be?

May the Lord's richest blessings be upon all. Remember who you are. You are worth more than all this world's creation. You all are doing a great work, the realization of this great work will manifest itself in due time.



Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

The sun rises as Staff Sgt. Wilgene Lieto, of 100th Bn., 442nd Inf., heads out on an early morning patrol as the sun rises.

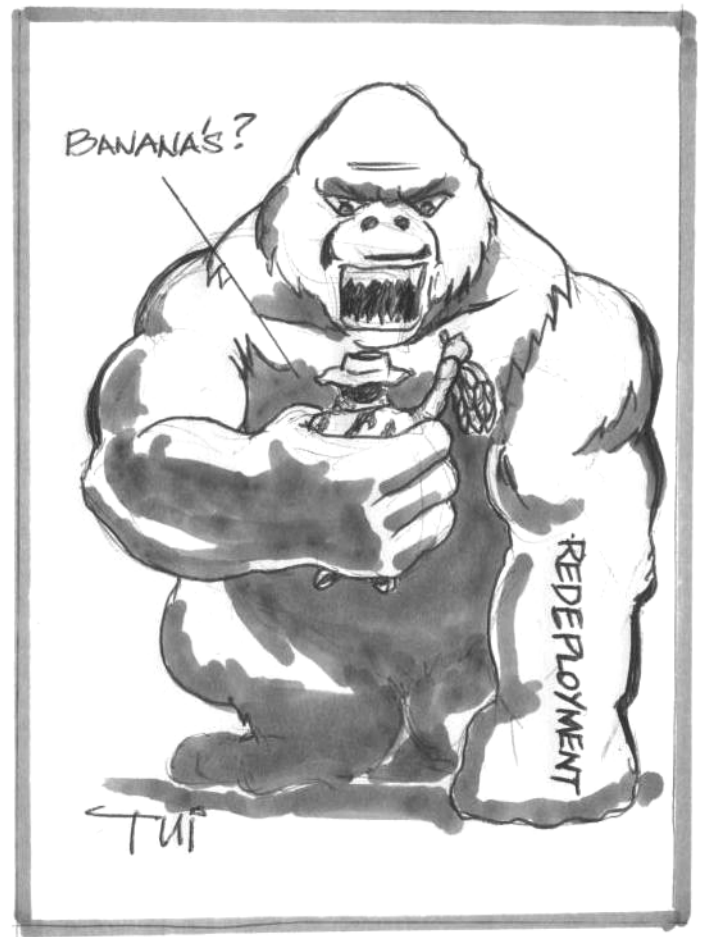
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

To SGT FRANK ALENSONORIN JR of the 227th Engr Co in Kuwait, here's wishing you a Happy 2nd Anniversary on Nov 9 from your wife. We've missed them both due to this deployment, but we have a lifetime ahead of us to celebrate. For now, we're just "Two Worlds Apart." Love, Darice.

SFC Aaron Nakashima, 100/442 Co. D "Happy Birthday Daddy!" Love you and miss you very much! Love, Michi and mommy

Happy Birthday to SSgt Tee Ah Sam! (A Btry 1/487th FA) We miss You and can't wait for your return! Love you Always, Your 'Ohana

To my husband- MAJ Guy Terai. Thank you so much for the wonderful time we shared. Babe, you're the best! There's no place I rather be than with you! I love you and miss you so much! Love, Diane



Original artwork by Staff Sgt. Donovan Tuisano

Photos By Sgt. Lauran Robinson



Spc. Nicholas Kamono of the HHC, 29th BCT, reads "Happy Veteran's Day" cards sent from the Kindergarten Class of St. Joseph School, Waipahu, Ha.

PHOTO GALLERY



Staff Sgt. Robert Matthews of the 227th Combat Engineer Company puts a band aid on the finger of an Iraqi Police Officer in Bakr Village. The officer had cut his finger on some concertina wire the engineers were emplacing to help keep polling sites safe.

Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Ramadan begins when the sickle moon rises over the City of Mecca. This is a period of spiritual introspection for Muslims.



Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura



An Iraqi Army soldier recites prayers to himself as he thumbs prayer beads. During the Month of Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink anything from sun up until sun down.

Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

PHOTO GALLERY

Spc. Josh Alcantar of 1st Plt., F Troop, 82nd Cav., gets to know the local children around the post during patrols.



Photo By Sgt. Lauran Robinson



Spc. Bobbi Brown of the 227th Combat Engineer Company speaks to a class in the Bakr Village Elementary School. The children were excited about meeting an American woman serving as a soldier. Girls attend segregated classes in the mornings and boys attend classes in the afternoons.

Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Saddam Hussein stored parts for his MIG Fighter jets in the Bakr Village elementary school to keep them safe from allied bombs at the start of the war.



PHOTO GALLERY

Maj. Mark Ogburn (left) and Maj. Neil Mitsuyoshi emplace pickets to hold the concertina wire they and other engineers emplaced around polling sites.



Photo By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Sgt. Renee Faber of the 29th Spt. Bn., works with Iraqi soldiers at the north entry control point as they search local nationals coming in and out of LSA Anaconda.

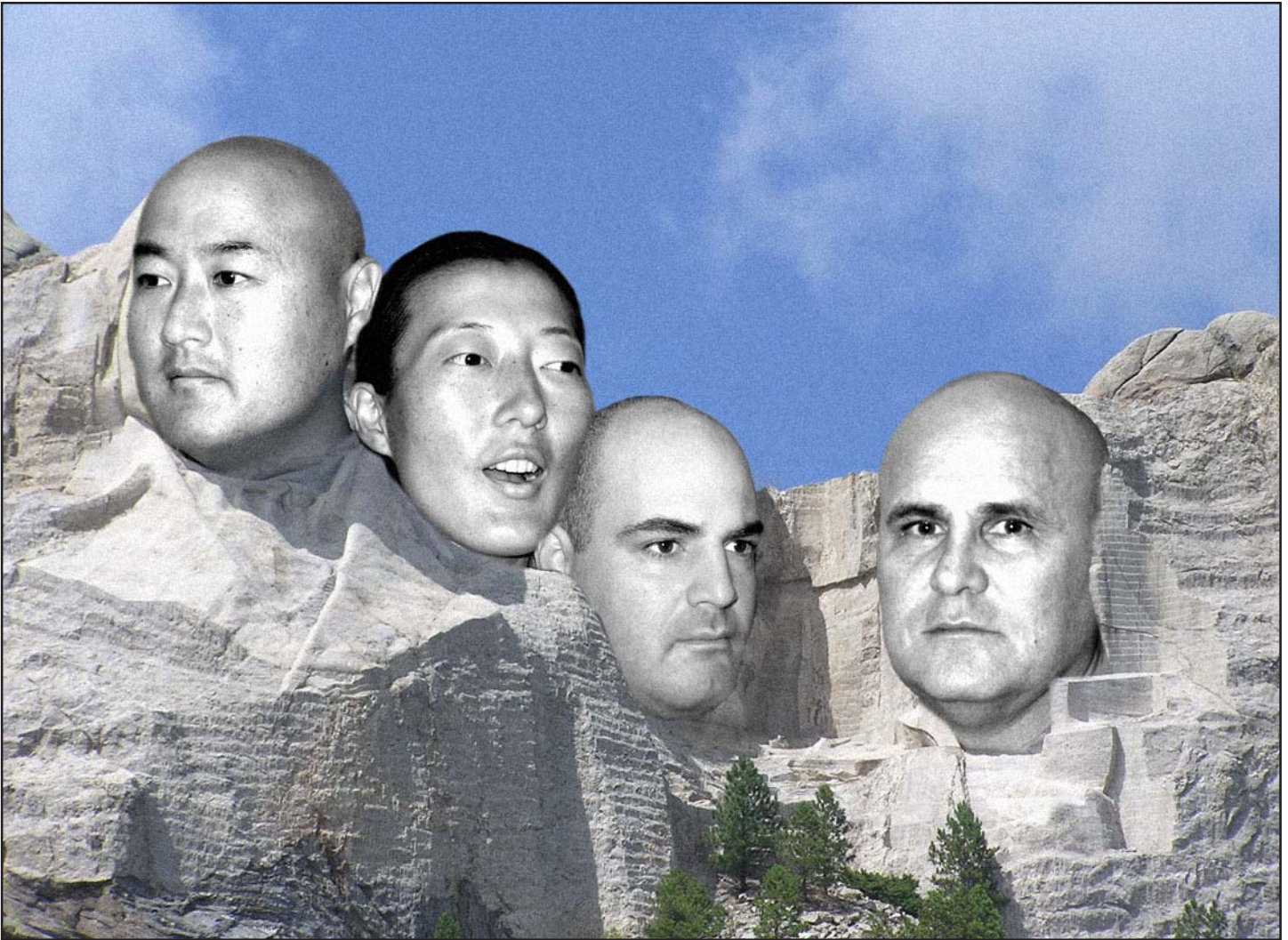


Photo By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Spc. Michael Patten, the gunner in the truck, and Sgt. David Persinger of the 1st Plt., F Troop, 82nd Cav., secure an area in a nearby village outside of LSA Anaconda to pass out donated soccer balls and t-shirts to the local national children.



SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION



The Lava Flow Staff

The Lava Flow is published monthly by the 29th Brigade Combat Team's Public Affairs Section.

The 29th BCT PAO is dedicated to telling the story of the men and women serving with the 29th BCT in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as bringing messages of support to the troops. Our newsletter, The Lava Flow, is a Command Information bulletin, used by BG Joseph Chaves to keep his brigade's soldiers informed.

As a morale booster, we'd like to include messages of support from family members for the brave men and women of the 29th, please contact us at the following address:

pao.lava@us.army.mil

All submissions must be no more than one sentence long, and contain the soldier's name, rank, and unit along with the message of support. Please limit your submissions to one per family per month.